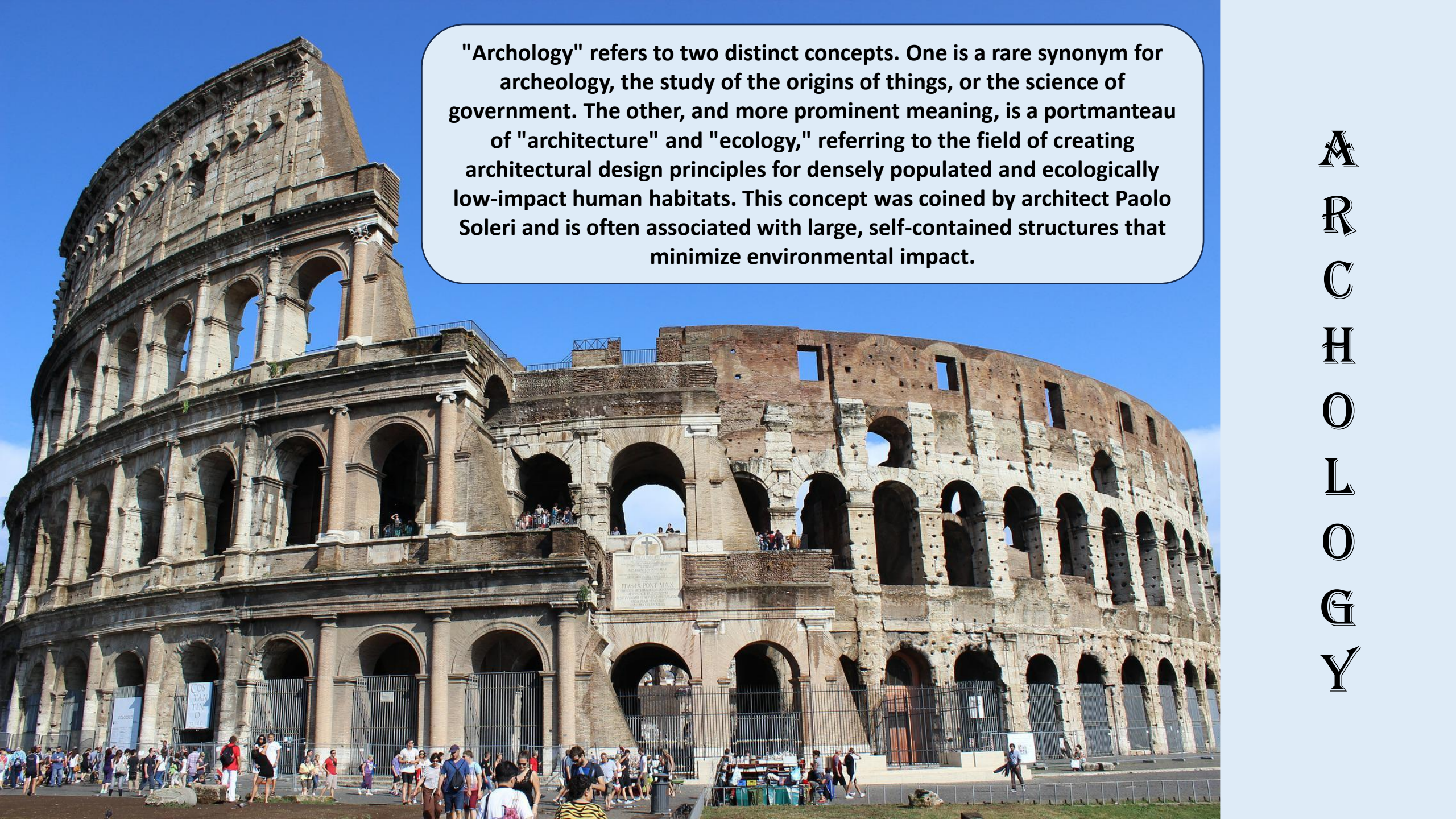




"Archology" refers to two distinct concepts. One is a rare synonym for archeology, the study of the origins of things, or the science of government. The other, and more prominent meaning, is a portmanteau of "architecture" and "ecology," referring to the field of creating architectural design principles for densely populated and ecologically low-impact human habitats. This concept was coined by architect Paolo Soleri and is often associated with large, self-contained structures that minimize environmental impact.

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ARCHOLOGY

1. Archology as Archeology/Science of Government:

Historically, "archology" has been used as a synonym for archeology, the study of human history and prehistory through the excavation of artifacts.

It has also been used to refer to the science of government, or the study of the origins and principles of governance.

2. Arcology (Architecture + Ecology):

Arcology, as coined by Paolo Soleri, is a design principle that merges architecture and ecology. The core idea is to create large, dense, and self-contained structures that can house large populations while minimizing their environmental footprint.

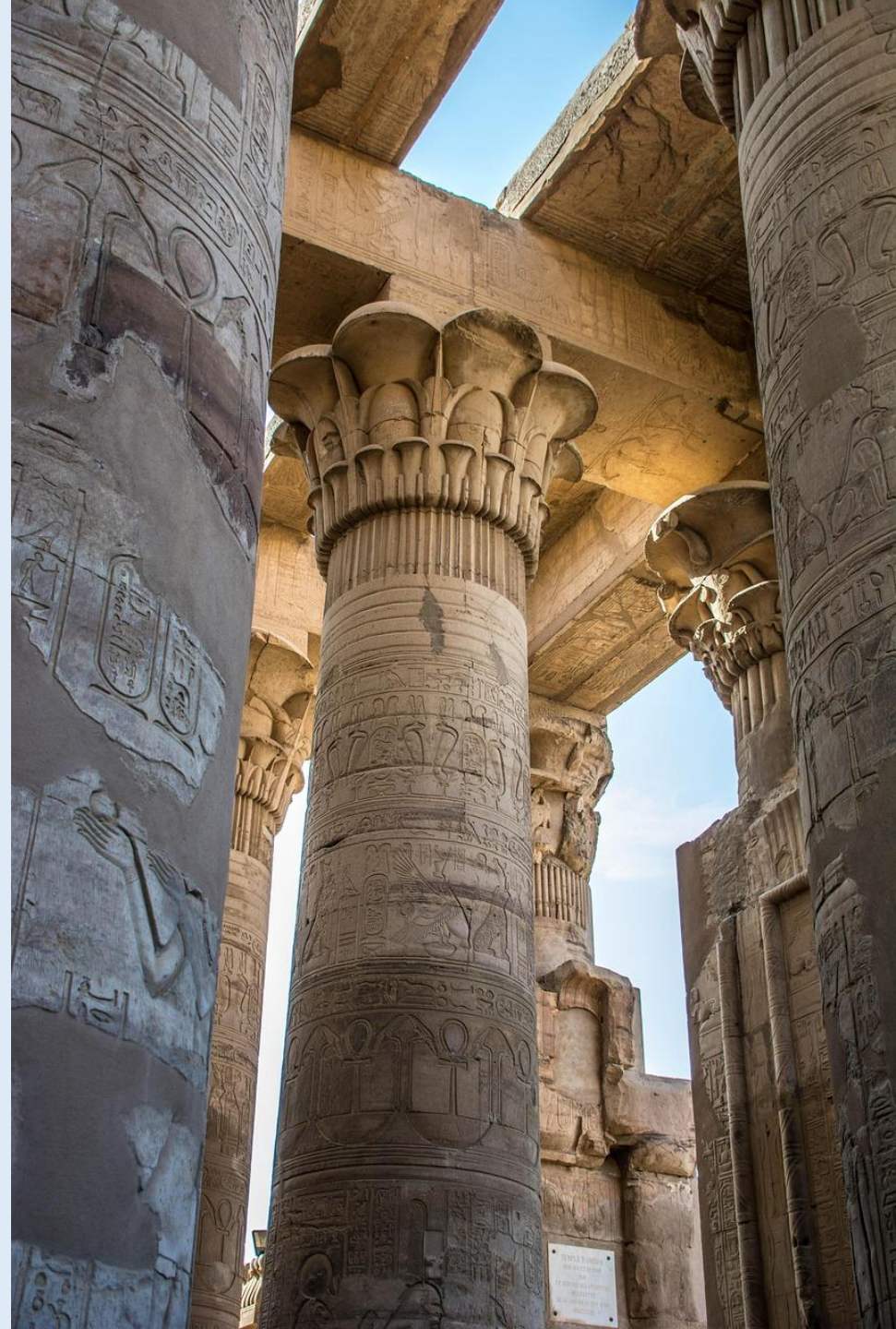
Arcologies are designed to be ecologically sustainable by incorporating features like vertical farming, waste recycling, and renewable energy sources.

While largely hypothetical, the concept has appeared in science fiction and inspired architectural designs.

Examples of arcology concepts include the NOAH (New Orleans Arcology Habitat) proposal and the fictional arcologies described in novels like Oath of Fealty.



ARCHAEOLOGY





ARCHAEOLOGY



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ARCHOLOGY



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ARCHAEOLOGY



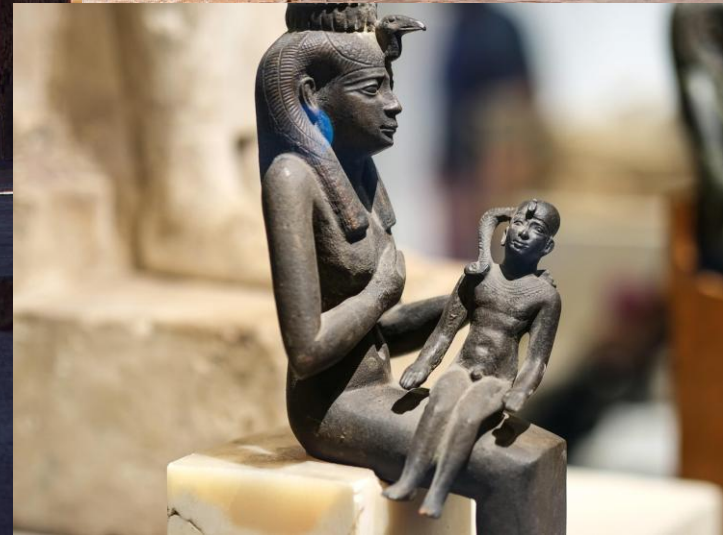
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ARCHAEOLOGY



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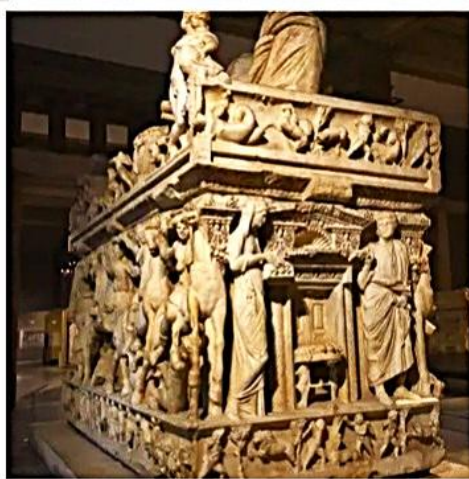


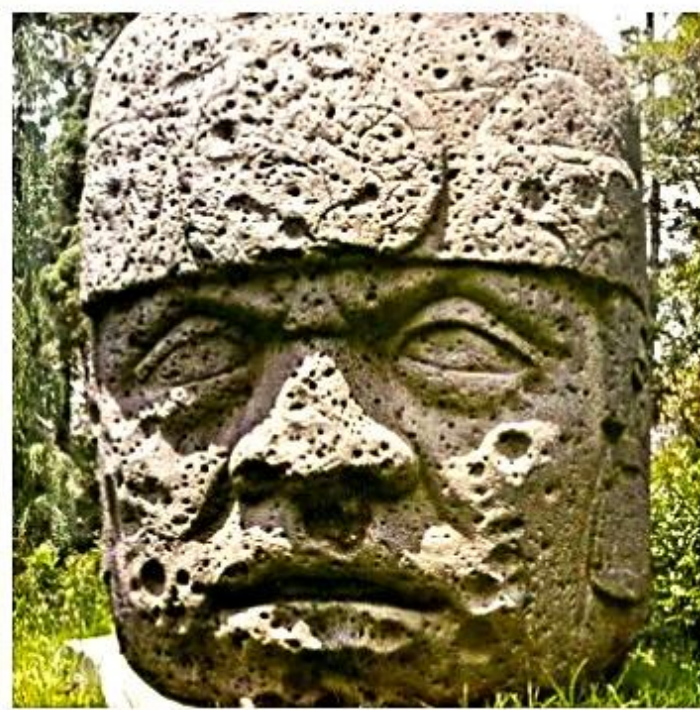
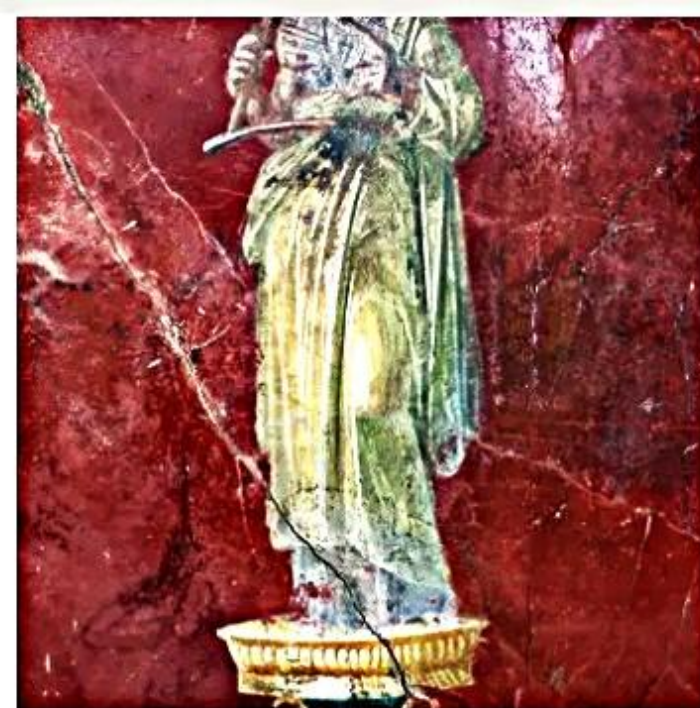
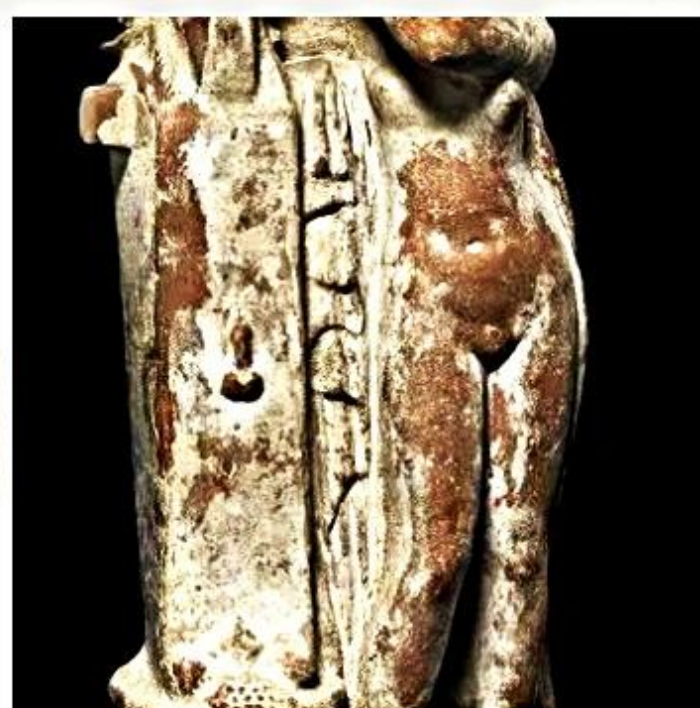
ARCHAEOLOGY



EARLY VISITORS

In a cave deep in the Sahara, a strange scene is painted: animals flee as a red beam descends from a disk-shaped object overhead. One figure stands on a deer, while another appears to be caught in the light. Though commonly classified as prehistoric rock art, some interpret this as an ancient record of unexplained aerial phenomena. The symmetry of the “craft,” the directed beam, and the chaos below stir speculation. Is this simply symbolic storytelling—or a memory of something far stranger? The resemblance to modern depictions of UFOs fuels theories that humanity's earliest artists may have witnessed something inexplicable, long before written history began.





ARCHAEOLOGY



BIRKA AND
UPPÅKRÄ



VIKINGS TRAVEL



Birka



Generally regarded as Sweden's oldest town, Birka (along with Hovgården) has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1993. A silver ring from a Viking-era grave in Birka is the first ring with Arabic inscription from that era found in Scandinavia.

VÄRLDSKULTURARV BIRKA





BIRKA

UPPÅKRA

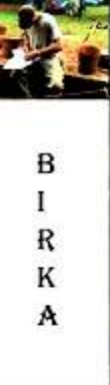


BIRKA AND
UPPÅKRA

BIRKA

Birka, on the island of Björkö (literally: "Birch Island") in present-day Sweden, was an important Viking Age trading center which handled goods from Scandinavia and Finland as well as Central and Eastern Europe and the Orient.[1] Björkö is located in Lake Mälaren, 30 kilometers west of contemporary Stockholm, in the municipality of Ekerö.

Birka was founded around AD 750 and it flourished for more than 200 years. It was abandoned c. AD 975, around the same time Sigtuna was founded as a Christian town some 35 km to the northeast. It has been estimated that the population in Viking Age Birka was between 500 and 1000 people. The archaeological sites of Birka and Hovgården, on the neighbouring island of Adelsö, make up an archaeological complex which illustrates the elaborate trading networks of Viking Scandinavia and their influence on the subsequent history of Europe.

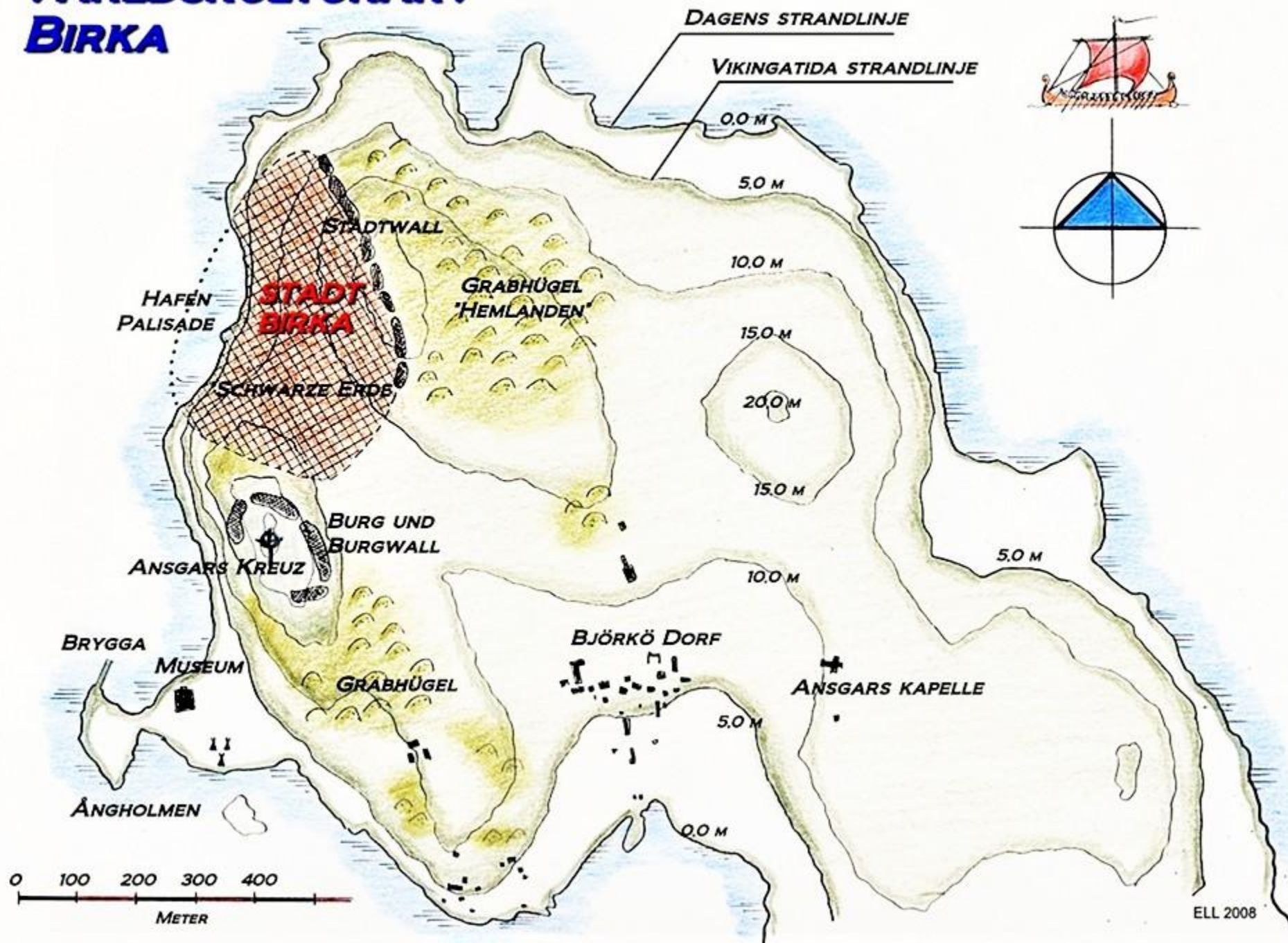


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Generally regarded as Sweden's oldest town, Birka (along with Hovgården) has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1993. A silver ring from a Viking-era grave in Birka is the first ring with Arabic inscription from that era found in Scandinavia.

VÄRLDSKULTURARV BIRKA





Birka was founded around AD 750 by either a king in order to control and expand trade or it emerged from a seasonal trading place around. It is one of the earliest urban settlements in Scandinavia. Birka was the Baltic link in the river and portage route through Ladoga (Aldeigja) and Novgorod (Holmsgard) to the Byzantine Empire and the Abbasid Caliphate. Birka was also important as the site of the first known Christian congregation in Sweden, founded in 831 by Saint Ansgar.

As a trading center Birka most likely offered furs and iron goods as well as craft products, in exchange for various materials from much of Europe and western Asia. Furs were obtained from the Sami, Finns, and people in northwestern Russia as well as from local trappers. Furs included bear, fox, marten, otter, beaver and other species. Reindeer antler was an important item in exchange as well as hand-carved combs made from antler. Also walrus teeth, amber, and honey were exchanged.

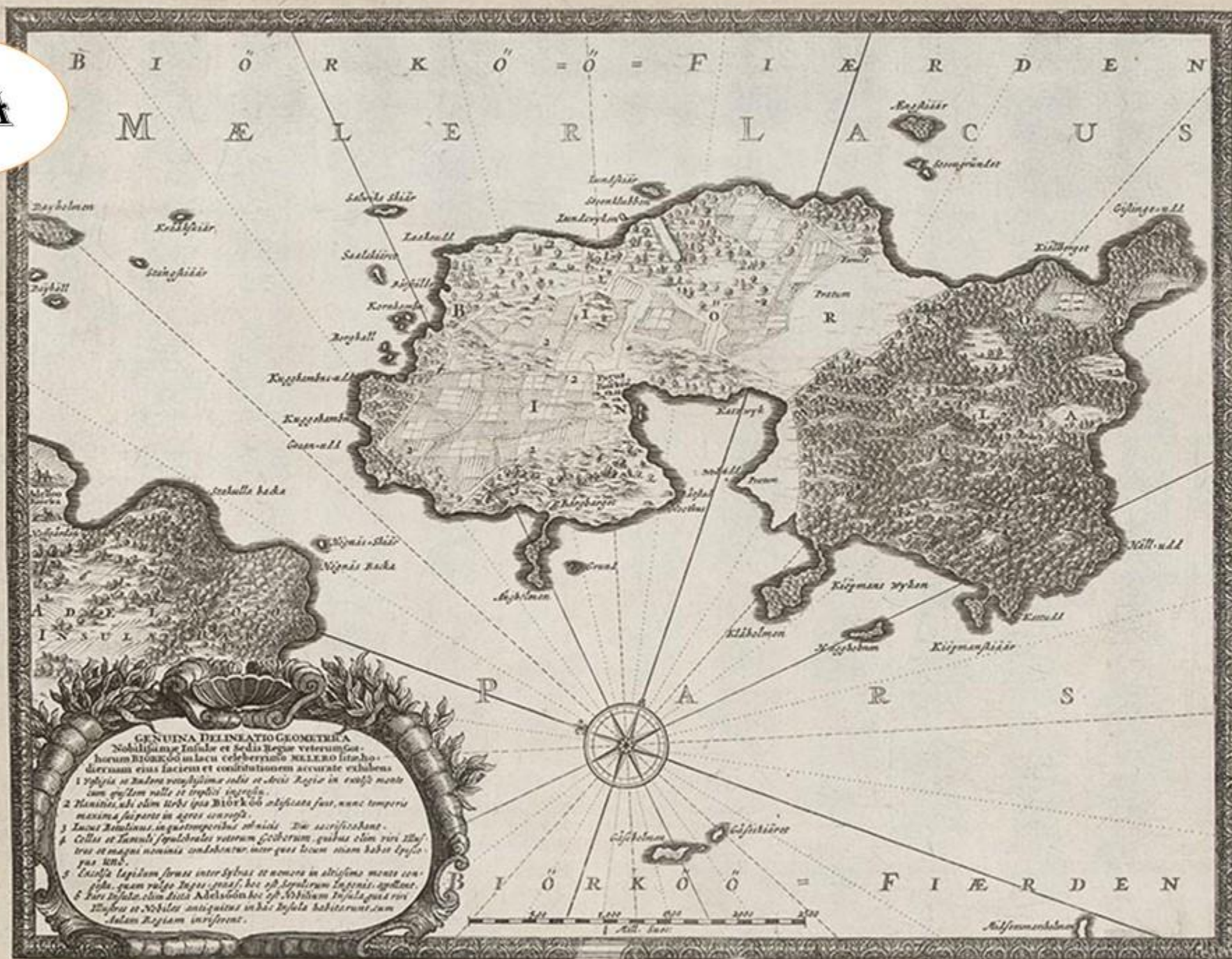
FOREIGN GOODS FROM THE GRAVES OF BIRKA

Foreign goods found from the graves of Birka include glass and metal ware, pottery from the Rhineland, clothing and textiles including Chinese silk, Byzantine embroidery with extremely fine gold thread, brocades with gold passementerie and plaited cords of high quality. From the ninth century onwards coins minted at Haithabu in northern Germany and elsewhere in Scandinavia start to appear. The vast majority of the coins found at Birka are however silver dirhams from the Caliphate. English and Carolingian coins are rare.

Sources of Birka are mainly archaeological remains. No texts survive from this area, though the written text *Vita Ansgari* ("The life of Ansgar") by Rimbert (c. 865) describes the missionary work of Ansgar around 830 at Birka, and *Gesta Hammaburgensis Ecclesiae Pontificum* (Deeds of Bishops of the Hamburg Church) by Adam of Bremen in 1075 describes the archbishop Unni, who died at Birka in 936. St Ansgar's work was the first attempt to convert the inhabitants from the Norse religion to Christianity, and it was unsuccessful.



BIRKA



An entry point in a Viking-era defensive wall on Birka



July 2004
excavation of
Birka



BIRKA WAS ABANDONED DURING THE LATER 10 TH CENTURY

Birka was abandoned during the later half of the 10th century. Based on the coin finds, the city seems to have silenced around 960. Roughly around the same time, the nearby settlement of Sigtuna supplanted Birka as the main trading centre in the Mälaren area. The reasons for Birka's decline are disputed. A contributing factor may have been the post-glacial rebound, which lowered the water level of Mälaren changing it from an arm of the sea into a lake and cut Birka off from the nearest (southern) access to the Baltic Sea.[citation needed] The Baltic island of Gotland was also in a better strategic position for Russian-Byzantine trade, and was gaining eminence as a mercantile stronghold. Historian Neil Kent has speculated that the area may have been the victim of an enemy assault.

The Varangian trade stations in Russia suffered a serious decline at roughly the same date.

UPPÅKRA IN SCANIA

A Bronze to Iron Age settlement was found in 1934, when a farm was built close to the church. The first excavation that year was done by the Archaeologist Bror Magnus Vifot. Geological studies carried out by a sugar company in the 1930s revealed that the site around the church of Uppåkra was extremely rich in phosphate, the highest concentration of it in Scania. Since excrement contains phosphate, this indicates the presence of many cattle and people over time. The study was conducted by Olof Arrhenius over most of the Scania province.

In the middle of 1990 investigations with metal detectors revealed almost 30,000 gold, silver and bronze objects Archaeological excavations in a 100-acre (0.40 km²) field intensified in 1996: they show Uppåkra to have been among the richest and largest Iron Age–Viking Age town on the Scandinavian Peninsula.

UPPÅKRA IN SCANIA

For centuries, maybe for most of the first millennium, Uppåkra was a place of religious and political power; remains of a pre-Christian temple excavated during 2000–2004 demonstrated that it was also an important cult place.

During excavations in the summer of 2007, the remains of a building destroyed by fire were investigated. The building was situated just to the west of the temple. It was presumably a longhouse of more than 40 metres in length, built in the 5th or 6th century. The excavations also yielded a large amount of ceramic, bone, and glass artefacts, and a number of metal objects in iron, bronze and gold, including fibulae, two identically stamped bracteates, and a probable surgical instrument. One of the objects excavated in 2007, interpreted as representing an ornamental lion, made headlines due to its peculiar resemblance to Mickey Mouse.



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Häradernas Namn.

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3. Östra Götlands härad	13. Västmanlands härad
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5. Närke härad	15. Smålands härad
6. Östmanlands härad	16. Västmanlands härad
7. Västmanlands härad	17. Östra härad
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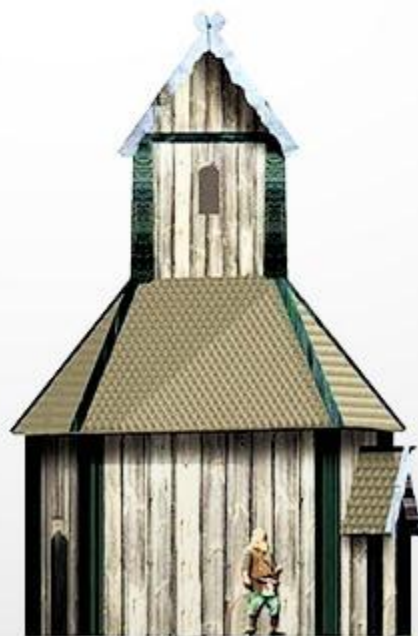
UPPÅKRA
SCANIA / SWEDEN



Överst interör efter Foteviksmodellen. Underst planen som bland annat visar härden (rött) och fyndplatsen för bagaren och glasskålen (grönt).



Bronsbägaren och glasskålen funna i Uppåkratemplet







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ARCHAEOLOGY



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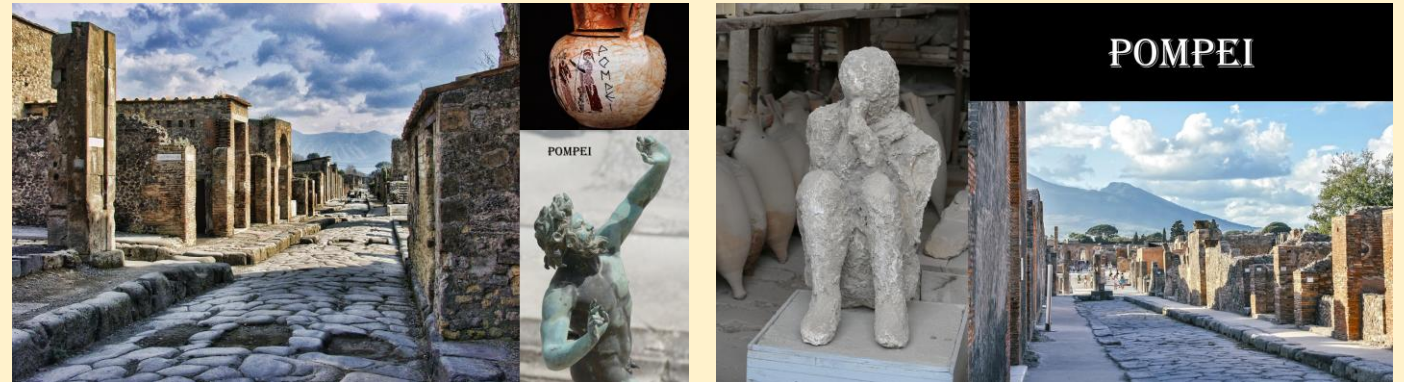
POMPEI



The town of Pompei is located at the eastern borders of its province, and its urban area is contiguous with Scafati in the Province of Salerno. It also borders Torre Annunziata, Castellammare di Stabia, Boscoreale, Santa Maria la Carità and Sant'Antonio Abate.

Modern Pompei is famous primarily for the ruins of the ancient city of Pompeii, located in the zone of Pompei Scavi. The vast archaeological area is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and attracts many international tourists.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Pompei, dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary, has become a site for Catholic pilgrimages in recent years. It houses a canvas by Luca Giordano. It was founded by a convert who reportedly experienced a miracle from the Virgin Mary. Miracles have been reported since its foundation. The ex-votos that cover the church walls are a testimonial of the miracles granted by the Virgin Mary since the church was consecrated in 1891. Many churches, chapels, and shrines worldwide are dedicated to Our Lady of Pompei.





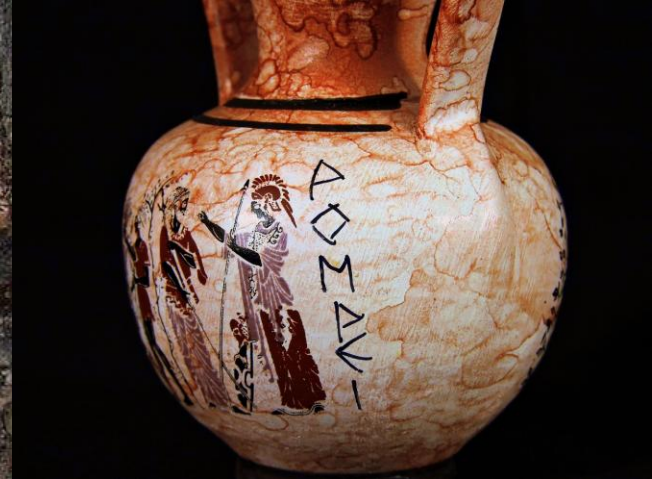




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POMPEI





POMPEI





COLOSSEUM

ANDERS DERNBACK



THE COLOSSEUM IS AN OVAL AMPHITHEATRE IN THE CENTRE OF THE CITY OF ROME, ITALY, JUST EAST OF THE ROMAN FORUM. IT IS THE LARGEST ANCIENT AMPHITHEATRE EVER BUILT, AND IS STILL THE LARGEST STANDING AMPHITHEATRE IN THE WORLD TODAY, DESPITE ITS AGE. CONSTRUCTION BEGAN UNDER THE EMPEROR VESPASIAN (R. 69—79 AD) IN 72 AND WAS COMPLETED IN 80 AD UNDER HIS SUCCESSOR AND HEIR, TITUS (R. 79—81). FURTHER MODIFICATIONS WERE MADE DURING THE REIGN OF DOMITIAN (R. 81—96). THE THREE EMPERORS THAT WERE PATRONS OF THE WORK ARE KNOWN AS THE FLAVIAN DYNASTY, AND THE AMPHITHEATRE WAS NAMED THE FLAVIAN AMPHITHEATRE (LATIN: AMPHITHEATRUM FLAVIUM; ITALIAN: ANFITEATRO FLAVIO BY LATER CLASSICISTS AND ARCHAEOLOGISTS FOR ITS ASSOCIATION WITH THEIR FAMILY NAME (FLAVIUS)).



THE COLOSSEUM IS BUILT OF TRAVERTINE LIMESTONE, TUFF (VOLCANIC ROCK), AND BRICK-FACED CONCRETE. IT COULD HOLD AN ESTIMATED 50,000 TO 80,000 SPECTATORS AT VARIOUS POINTS IN ITS HISTORY, HAVING AN AVERAGE AUDIENCE OF SOME 65,000 IT WAS USED FOR GLADIATORIAL CONTESTS AND PUBLIC SPECTACLES INCLUDING ANIMAL HUNTS, EXECUTIONS, RE-ENACTMENTS OF FAMOUS BATTLES, AND DRAMAS BASED ON ROMAN MYTHOLOGY, AND BRIEFLY MOCK SEA BATTLES. THE BUILDING CEASED TO BE USED FOR ENTERTAINMENT IN THE EARLY MEDIEVAL ERA. IT WAS LATER REUSED FOR SUCH PURPOSES AS HOUSING, WORKSHOPS, QUARTERS FOR A RELIGIOUS ORDER, A FORTRESS, A QUARRY, AND A CHRISTIAN SHRINE.





ALTHOUGH SUBSTANTIALLY RUINED BY EARTHQUAKES AND STONE ROBBERS TAKING SPOLIA, THE COLOSSEUM IS STILL AN ICONIC SYMBOL OF IMPERIAL ROME AND WAS LISTED AS ONE OF THE NEW 7 WONDERS OF THE WORLD. IT IS ONE OF ROME'S MOST POPULAR TOURIST ATTRACTIONS AND ALSO HAS LINKS TO THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, AS EACH GOOD FRIDAY THE POPE LEADS A TORCHLIT "WAY OF THE CROSS" PROCESSION THAT STARTS IN THE AREA AROUND THE COLOSSEUM.[8] THE COLOSSEUM IS DEPICTED ON THE ITALIAN VERSION OF THE FIVE-CENT EURO COIN.



VESPASIAN (17 NOVEMBER AD 9 – 23/24 JUNE 79) WAS A ROMAN EMPEROR WHO REIGNED FROM AD 69 TO 79. THE FOURTH AND LAST EMPEROR WHO REIGNED IN THE YEAR OF THE FOUR EMPERORS, HE FOUNDED THE FLAVIAN DYNASTY THAT RULED THE EMPIRE FOR 27 YEARS. HIS FISCAL REFORMS AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE EMPIRE GENERATED POLITICAL STABILITY AND A VAST ROMAN BUILDING PROGRAM.



TITUS CAESAR VESPASIANUS (30 DECEMBER 39 — 13 SEPTEMBER 81 AD) WAS ROMAN EMPEROR FROM 79 TO 81. A MEMBER OF THE FLAVIAN DYNASTY, TITUS SUCCEEDED HIS FATHER VESPASIAN UPON HIS DEATH.

BEFORE BECOMING EMPEROR, TITUS GAINED RENOWN AS A MILITARY COMMANDER, SERVING UNDER HIS FATHER IN JUDEA DURING THE FIRST JEWISH—ROMAN WAR. THE CAMPAIGN CAME TO A BRIEF HALT WITH THE DEATH OF EMPEROR NERO IN 68, LAUNCHING VESPASIAN'S BID FOR THE IMPERIAL POWER DURING THE YEAR OF THE FOUR EMPERORS. WHEN VESPASIAN WAS DECLARED EMPEROR ON 1 JULY 69, TITUS WAS LEFT IN CHARGE OF ENDING THE JEWISH REBELLION. IN 70, HE BESIEGED AND CAPTURED JERUSALEM, AND DESTROYED THE CITY AND THE SECOND TEMPLE. FOR THIS ACHIEVEMENT TITUS WAS AWARDED A TRIUMPH; THE ARCH OF TITUS COMMEMORATES HIS VICTORY TO THIS DAY.

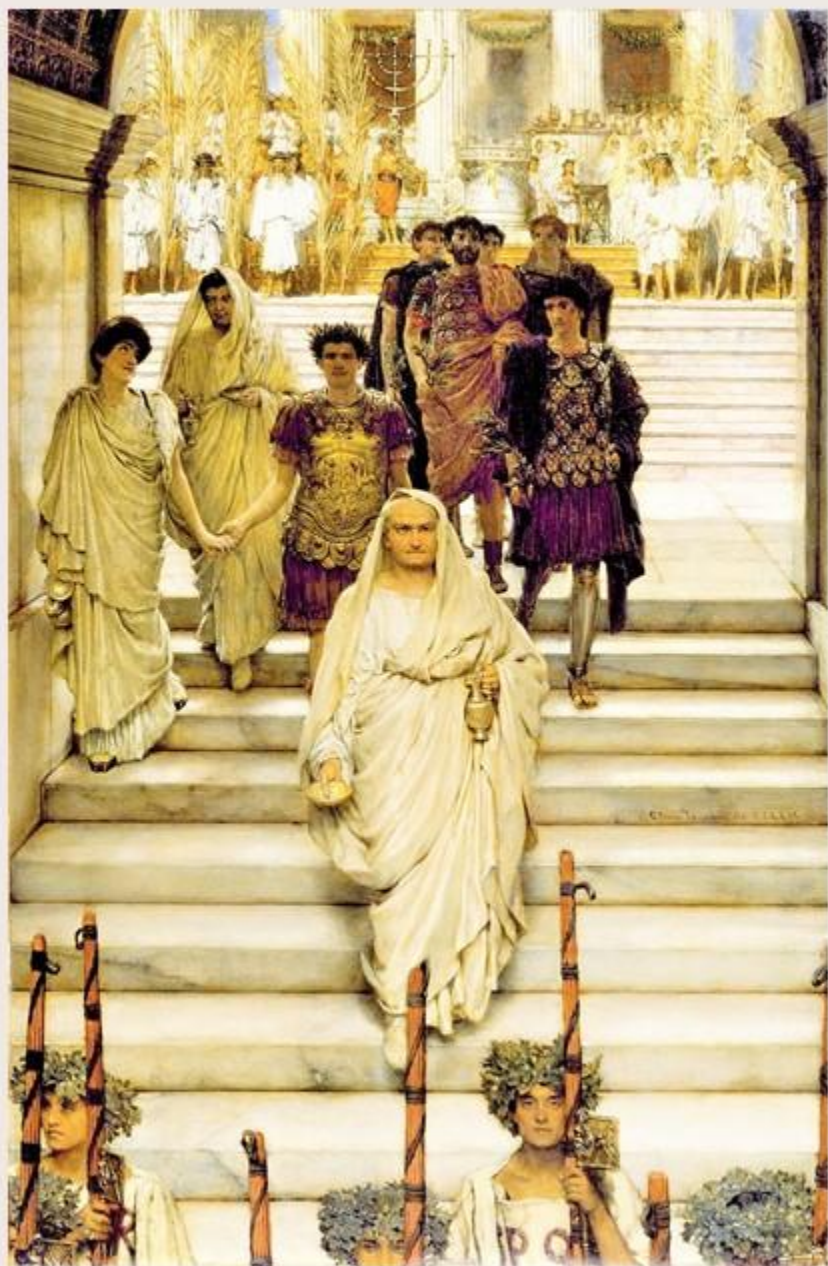




DOMITIAN (24 OCTOBER 51 – 18 SEPTEMBER 96) WAS A ROMAN EMPEROR WHO REIGNED FROM 81 TO 96. THE SON OF VESPASIAN AND THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF TITUS, HIS TWO PREDECESSORS ON THE THRONE, HE WAS THE LAST MEMBER OF THE FLAVIAN DYNASTY. DESCRIBED AS "A RUTHLESS BUT EFFICIENT AUTOCRAT", HIS AUTHORITARIAN STYLE OF RULING PUT HIM AT SHARP ODDS WITH THE SENATE, WHOSE POWERS HE DRASTICALLY CURTAILED.



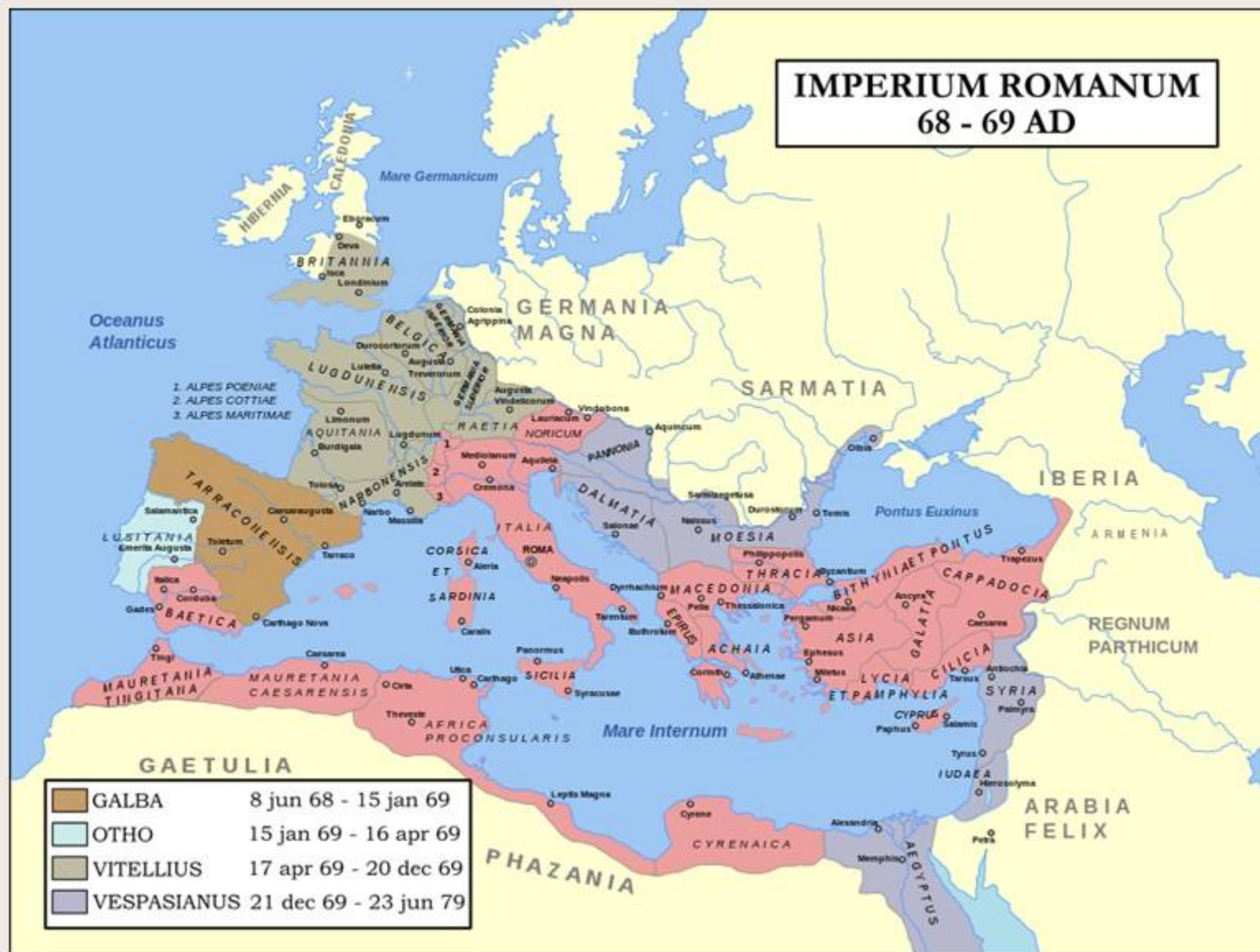




THE FLAVIAN DYNASTY RULED THE ROMAN EMPIRE BETWEEN AD 69 AND 96, ENCOMPASSING THE REIGNS OF VESPASIAN (69–79), AND HIS TWO SONS TITUS (79–81) AND DOMITIAN (81–96). THE FLAVIANS ROSE TO POWER DURING THE CIVIL WAR OF 69, KNOWN AS THE YEAR OF THE FOUR EMPERORS. AFTER GALBA AND OTHO DIED IN QUICK SUCCESSION, VITELLIUS BECAME EMPEROR IN MID 69. HIS CLAIM TO THE THRONE WAS QUICKLY CHALLENGED BY LEGIONS STATIONED IN THE EASTERN PROVINCES, WHO DECLARED THEIR COMMANDER VESPASIAN EMPEROR IN HIS PLACE. THE SECOND BATTLE OF BEDRIACUM TILTED THE BALANCE DECISIVELY IN FAVOUR OF THE FLAVIAN FORCES, WHO ENTERED ROME ON 20 DECEMBER. THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE ROMAN SENATE OFFICIALLY DECLARED VESPASIAN EMPEROR OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE, THUS COMMENCING THE FLAVIAN DYNASTY. ALTHOUGH THE DYNASTY PROVED TO BE SHORT-LIVED, SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY EVENTS TOOK PLACE DURING THEIR REIGN.



VIEW OF THE ROMAN FORUM FROM THE CAPITOLINE MUSEUMS IN ROME.



THE ROMAN EMPIRE DURING THE YEAR OF THE FOUR EMPERORS (69 CE). BLUE AREAS INDICATE PROVINCES LOYAL TO VESPASIAN AND GAIUS LICINIUS MUCIANUS. GREEN AREAS INDICATE PROVINCES LOYAL TO VITELLIUS.



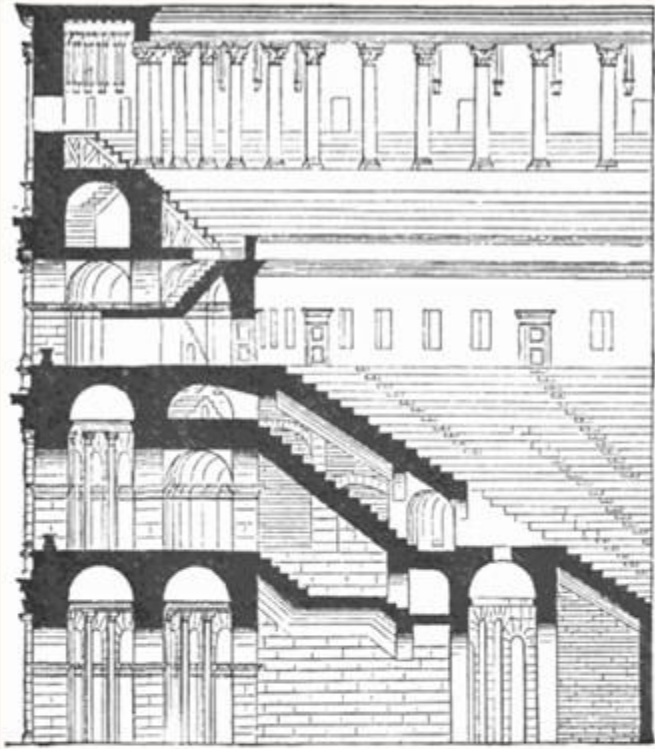
NAME



ORIGINALLY, THE BUILDING'S LATIN NAME WAS SIMPLY THE LATIN: AMPHITHEATRUM, LIT. 'AMPHITHEATRE'. THOUGH THE MODERN NAME FLAVIAN AMPHITHEATRE (LATIN: AMPHITHEATRUM FLAVIUM) IS OFTEN USED, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE IT WAS USED IN CLASSICAL ANTIQUITY. THIS NAME REFERS TO THE PATRONAGE OF THE FLAVIAN DYNASTY, DURING WHOSE REIGNS THE BUILDING WAS CONSTRUCTED, BUT THE STRUCTURE IS BETTER KNOWN AS THE COLOSSEUM IN ANTIQUITY, ROMANS MAY HAVE REFERRED TO THE COLOSSEUM BY THE UNOFFICIAL NAME AMPHITHEATRUM CAESAREUM (WITH CAESAREUM AN ADJECTIVE PERTAINING TO THE TITLE CAESAR), BUT THIS NAME MAY HAVE BEEN STRICTLY POETIC AS IT WAS NOT EXCLUSIVE TO THE COLOSSEUM; VESPASIAN AND TITUS, BUILDERS OF THE COLOSSEUM, ALSO CONSTRUCTED A FLAVIAN AMPHITHEATRE IN PUTEOLI (MODERN POZZUOLI)

THE NAME COLOSSEUM IS BELIEVED TO BE DERIVED FROM A COLOSSAL STATUE OF NERO ON THE MODEL OF THE COLOSSUS OF RHODES. THE GIANT BRONZE SCULPTURE OF NERO AS A SOLAR DEITY WAS MOVED TO ITS POSITION BESIDE THE AMPHITHEATRE BY THE EMPEROR HADRIAN (R. 117—138). THE WORD COLOSSEUM IS A NEUTER LATIN NOUN FORMED FROM THE ADJECTIVE COLOSSEUS, MEANING "GIGANTIC" OR "COLOSSEAN". BY THE YEAR 1000 THE LATIN NAME "COLOSSEUM" HAD BEEN COINED TO REFER TO THE AMPHITHEATRE FROM THE NEARBY "COLOSSUS SOLIS".





HISTORY



THE SITE CHOSEN WAS A FLAT AREA ON THE FLOOR OF A LOW VALLEY BETWEEN THE CAELIAN, ESQUILINE AND PALATINE HILLS, THROUGH WHICH A CANALISED STREAM RAN AS WELL AS AN ARTIFICIAL LAKE/MARSH. BY THE 2ND CENTURY BC THE AREA WAS DENSELY INHABITED. IT WAS DEVASTATED BY THE GREAT FIRE OF ROME IN 64 AD, FOLLOWING WHICH NERO SEIZED MUCH OF THE AREA TO ADD TO HIS PERSONAL DOMAIN. HE BUILT THE GRANDIOSE DOMUS AUREA ON THE SITE, IN FRONT OF WHICH HE CREATED AN ARTIFICIAL LAKE SURROUNDED BY PAVILIONS, GARDENS AND PORTICOES. THE EXISTING AQUA CLAUDIA AQUEDUCT WAS EXTENDED TO SUPPLY WATER TO THE AREA AND THE GIGANTIC BRONZE COLOSSUS OF NERO WAS SET UP NEARBY AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE DOMUS AUREA.



SESTERTIUS OF TITUS CELEBRATING
THE INAUGURATION OF THE
COLOSSEUM (MINTED 80 AD).

ALTHOUGH THE COLOSSUS WAS PRESERVED, MUCH OF THE DOMUS AUREA WAS TORN DOWN. THE LAKE WAS FILLED IN AND THE LAND REUSED AS THE LOCATION FOR THE NEW FLAVIAN AMPHITHEATRE. GLADIATORIAL SCHOOLS AND OTHER SUPPORT BUILDINGS WERE CONSTRUCTED NEARBY WITHIN THE FORMER GROUNDS OF THE DOMUS AUREA. VESPASIAN'S DECISION TO BUILD THE COLOSSEUM ON THE SITE OF NERO'S LAKE CAN BE SEEN AS A POPULIST GESTURE OF RETURNING TO THE PEOPLE AN AREA OF THE CITY WHICH NERO HAD APPROPRIATED FOR HIS OWN USE. IN CONTRAST TO MANY OTHER AMPHITHEATRES, WHICH WERE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF A CITY, THE COLOSSEUM WAS CONSTRUCTED IN THE CITY CENTRE, IN EFFECT, PLACING IT BOTH SYMBOLICALLY AND PRECISELY AT THE HEART OF ROME.



ROME 1600:s

CONSTRUCTION OF THE COLOSSEUM BEGAN UNDER THE RULE OF VESPASIAN[3] IN AROUND 70–72 AD (73–75 AD ACCORDING TO SOME SOURCES). THE COLOSSEUM HAD BEEN COMPLETED UP TO THE THIRD STORY BY THE TIME OF VESPASIAN'S DEATH IN 79. THE TOP LEVEL WAS FINISHED BY HIS SON, TITUS, IN 80, AND THE INAUGURAL GAMES WERE HELD IN 80 OR 81 AD. DIO CASSIUS RECOUNTS THAT OVER 9,000 WILD ANIMALS WERE KILLED DURING THE INAUGURAL GAMES OF THE AMPHITHEATRE. COMMEMORATIVE COINAGE WAS ISSUED CELEBRATING THE INAUGURATION. THE BUILDING WAS REMODELLED FURTHER UNDER VESPASIAN'S YOUNGER SON, THE NEWLY DESIGNATED EMPEROR DOMITIAN, WHO CONSTRUCTED THE HYPOGEUM, A SERIES OF TUNNELS USED TO HOUSE ANIMALS AND SLAVES. HE ALSO ADDED A GALLERY TO THE TOP OF THE COLOSSEUM TO INCREASE ITS SEATING CAPACITY.

IN 217, THE COLOSSEUM WAS BADLY DAMAGED BY A MAJOR FIRE (CAUSED BY LIGHTNING, ACCORDING TO DIO CASSIUS, WHICH DESTROYED THE WOODEN UPPER LEVELS OF THE AMPHITHEATRE'S INTERIOR. IT WAS NOT FULLY REPAIRED UNTIL ABOUT 240 AND UNDERWENT FURTHER REPAIRS IN 250 OR 252 AND AGAIN IN 320. HONORIUS BANNED THE PRACTICE OF GLADIATOR FIGHTS IN 399 AND AGAIN IN 404.

GLADIATORIAL FIGHTS ARE LAST MENTIONED AROUND 435. AN INSCRIPTION RECORDS THE RESTORATION OF VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COLOSSEUM UNDER THEODOSIUS II AND VALENTINIAN III (REIGNED 425–455), POSSIBLY TO REPAIR DAMAGE CAUSED BY A MAJOR EARTHQUAKE IN 443; MORE WORK FOLLOWED IN 484 AND 508. THE ARENA CONTINUED TO BE USED FOR CONTESTS WELL INTO THE 6TH CENTURY. ANIMAL HUNTS CONTINUED UNTIL AT LEAST 523, WHEN ANICIUS MAXIMUS CELEBRATED HIS CONSULSHIP WITH SOME VENATIONES, CRITICISED BY KING THEODORIC THE GREAT FOR THEIR HIGH COST.





1870 VIEW
EMPHASIZING THE
SEMI-RURAL ENVIRONS
OF THE COLOSSEUM
AT THE TIME

DURING THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURY, CHURCH OFFICIALS SOUGHT A PRODUCTIVE ROLE FOR THE COLOSSEUM. POPE SIXTUS V (1585–1590) PLANNED TO TURN THE BUILDING INTO A WOOL FACTORY TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT FOR ROME'S PROSTITUTES, THOUGH THIS PROPOSAL FELL THROUGH WITH HIS PREMATURE DEATH. IN 1671 CARDINAL ALTIERI AUTHORIZED ITS USE FOR BULLFIGHTS; A PUBLIC OUTCRY CAUSED THE IDEA TO BE HASTILY ABANDONED.



IN 1749, POPE BENEDICT XIV ENDORSED THE VIEW THAT THE COLOSSEUM WAS A SACRED SITE WHERE EARLY CHRISTIANS HAD BEEN MARTYRED. HE FORBADE THE USE OF THE COLOSSEUM AS A QUARRY AND CONSECRATED THE BUILDING TO THE PASSION OF CHRIST AND INSTALLED STATIONS OF THE CROSS, DECLARING IT SANCTIFIED BY THE BLOOD OF THE CHRISTIAN MARTYRS WHO PERISHED THERE (SEE SIGNIFICANCE IN CHRISTIANITY). HOWEVER, THERE IS NO HISTORICAL EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT BENEDICT'S CLAIM, NOR IS THERE EVEN ANY EVIDENCE THAT ANYONE BEFORE THE 16TH CENTURY SUGGESTED THIS MIGHT BE THE CASE; THE CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA CONCLUDES THAT THERE ARE NO HISTORICAL GROUNDS FOR THE SUPPOSITION, OTHER THAN THE REASONABLY PLAUSIBLE CONJECTURE THAT SOME OF THE MANY MARTYRS MAY WELL HAVE BEEN.





THE COLOSSEUM IS TODAY ONE OF ROME'S MOST POPULAR TOURIST ATTRACTIONS, RECEIVING MILLIONS OF VISITORS ANNUALLY. THE EFFECTS OF POLLUTION AND GENERAL DETERIORATION OVER TIME PROMPTED A MAJOR RESTORATION PROGRAMME CARRIED OUT BETWEEN 1993 AND 2000, AT A COST OF LIRE 40 BILLION (\$19.3M / €20.6M AT 2000 PRICES).